

29 August 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Operations Group
FROM: Chief, Field Coverage Staff
SUBJECT: Islamabad Unit Coverage

1. This memorandum attempts to delineate and prioritize coverage projected for the Islamabad Unit. Its purpose is to provide an up-to-date reference to aid the BBC officer in initially locating the Unit's coverage during the survey in October and to serve as a coverage guide for to use in expanding the Unit's activities. It is by no means definitive; propagation factors, changes in coverage priorities, program changes and other factors all will serve to determine the Unit's actual coverage at any given time. It is expected that there will be a good deal of sampling and adjusting of coverage through trial and error, and a follow-up cruising survey should be scheduled for the Summer months to relocate coverage under Summer reception conditions. STAT

2. Following is a "menu" of coverage which should be available to the Islamabad Unit. (The attachments provide a detailed breakdown of this coverage.) This potential coverage is listed generally in the order in which it should be dealt with by the Unit, beginning with "Initial Coverage" which should be the first order of priority during the Unit's "breaking-in" stage--probably the first several months. As the Unit's staff gains experience, it should begin working on the list of "Expanded Coverage". Circumstances may dictate a different order of coverage than that listed (some coverage, for example, will depend on the availability of language capability). FCS will provide continuing guidance to the Unit as it gradually expands its mission.

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INITIAL COVERAGE

Soviet Regionals

3. In its initial stages, the Islamabad Unit will concentrate on Soviet regional coverage. The January 1979 cruising survey indicated that coverage in Russian and local vernaculars should be available from as many as nine regional stations. In some cases more than one service may be available from a single station and in a few cases full broadcast day coverage should be possible. Initially, coverage will be almost entirely from Russian-language programming. However, every effort should be made during the October survey to locate potential coverage in the vernaculars. As language capability becomes available at London, or possibly other bureaus, these programs can then be sampled and added to coverage as appropriate.

Kabul Domestic Service (First Program)

4. Although Islamabad is not expected to be regularly involved in coverage of the Kabul Domestic First Program as long as satisfactory reception is available to the BBC via the single sideband circuit feeding Soviet transmitters on 19637.25 kHz, it must be prepared to assume coverage on short notice should this single source of reliable reception be lost to the BBC. To that end, the October survey should determine frequencies for best reception of this service at Islamabad, these should be checked by the unit several times a week and updated as necessary.

EXPANDED COVERAGE

5. A wide variety of additional coverage should be available to the Islamabad Unit as it becomes fully operational. The October survey should locate as much of this coverage as possible:

Iranian Regionals

6. Islamabad should be able to provide at least partial coverage of three or four Iranian regionals stations. If possible, the October survey should determine which of the listed

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stations can be covered and should locate any available local programming. Any local programming found should be sampled by the Unit to determine if regular coverage is merited. Periodic checks should be made of all audible stations to insure that additional local programming is not available.

Tehran International (Pashto/Urdu/Russian)

7. Tehran International Service broadcasts in Pashto (to Afghanistan), Urdu (to Pakistan) and Russian (to the USSR) should be best heard at Islamabad. Nicosia and Tel Aviv can also hear the Russian, but have limited or no language capability. (This program appears to be temporarily off the air due to technical difficulties at Radio Iran.) At least sample coverage of the Pashto and Urdu programs and regular coverage of the Russian will be required. (The Pashto and Urdu casts have been sampled previously, but for very brief periods.)

Kabul Domestic Service Second Program

8. As soon as language capability is available, the Kabul Domestic Service Second Program should be sampled to determine if coverage is warranted. Earlier reports have indicated that this service repeats material carried on the First Program and that there is no variation between material carried in the various languages.

Tashkent Uighur

9. Islamabad should have better reception of Tashkent Uighur casts now being taken at Gulf Bureau for processing in Nicosia. If this is confirmed, coverage will be shifted to Islamabad.

Kabul International (English/Urdu)

10. Kabul broadcasts in English and Urdu to South Asia should be best heard at Islamabad. These casts have been on coverage at Bangkok and Gulf bureaus, but from very poor/un-monitorable reception. With full access to the Kabul Domestic Service now available, coverage of these casts may not be necessary unless it can be determined from sampling that they

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carry unique material directed at South Asian listeners. An extended period of sample coverage from improved reception at Islamabad is recommended.

Pakistan Domestic

11. Islamabad should be able to provide full coverage of the Karachi Domestic Service and the regional/local services of Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar and Rawalpindi in English, Urdu and several local vernaculars. Coverage of Quetta and Hyderabad also should be possible during hours of darkness. Coverage of Karachi should be necessary only as backstop for Bangkok during crisis periods or when the station is expected to carry important material. As resources permit, sample coverage of the various regional stations can be instituted to determine if local programming merits regular coverage.

Pakistan International (Persian/Dari)

12. Karachi broadcasts in Persian (to the Near and Middle East) and Dari should be sampled to determine if coverage is warranted. If sampling cannot be undertaken at Gulf Bureau due to unreliable reception, it can be done at Islamabad when resources permit.

Delhi International (Baluchi/Dari/Persian)

13. Delhi broadcasts in Persian (to the Near and Middle East) and in Dari, Pashto and Baluchi to neighboring countries should be sampled as resources permit. The Persian casts and possibly the Dari may be monitorable at Gulf Bureau.

Indian Regionals

14. Islamabad should be able to provide partial coverage of several Indian regional stations in the north and central part of the country, including Bombay and Calcutta. Sample coverage of the latter stations can be instituted when resources permit to determine if regular coverage is warranted. Additional cruising will be required to locate other possible sources.

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Kashmir Domestic

15. Islamabad should be able to provide full coverage of the Jammu, Srinigar and Azad Kashmir domestic services in Urdu, English and Kashmiri. Sample coverage can be instituted as resources permit.

China Domestic

16. Islamabad should be able to provide reliable coverage of three Chinese regional services--Urumqi, Lanzhou and Xinning--for the first time. It can also provide full coverage of Beijing Domestic Service casts in Kazakh and Uighur. Sample coverage can be arranged as resources permit.

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